Voyager Data and the Absence of Dark Energy: A TQTU Perspective

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Abstract

The twin Voyager spacecraft, launched in 1977, remain humanity's farthest messengers, now operating in interstellar space. Recent analyses of their plasma, magnetic field, and cosmic ray data indicate that charged particles account for more than 40% of the local interstellar medium's (LISM) energy density, with no measurable evidence of "dark energy." These findings align with the Tanfarid Quantum Thermodynamic Universe (TQTU) framework, which eliminates the need for exotic dark energy by attributing cosmic acceleration and clustering to Φ-field polarity gradients and torsion-induced gravity.

1 Introduction

The standard cosmological model (ΛCDM) posits that 68% of the universe consists of dark energy, an unknown repulsive force accelerating expansion. Yet, more than four decades of spacecraft data, including Voyager 1 and Voyager 2, provide no observational support for dark energy in the local cosmic environment. Instead, they reveal a plasma-rich interstellar medium dominated by charged particles (protons, electrons, heavy ions) and structured magnetic fields.

2 Voyager Observations

The Voyager missions have provided extensive datasets on the LISM, including plasma density, magnetic field strengths, cosmic ray fluxes, and particle energies. Below, we detail key measurements from both spacecraft, drawing from NASA and peer-reviewed analyses. These data span from the heliopause crossings onward and include comprehensive data points to clarify the energy contributions without confusion. All values are based on direct instrument readings from the Plasma Wave Subsystem (PWS), Low-Energy Charged Particle (LECP) instrument, Cosmic Ray Subsystem (CRS), and Magnetometer (MAG).

2.1 Key Milestones and Overview

1. **Voyager 1**: Crossed the heliopause on August 25, 2012, at approximately 121.6 AU from the Sun. It has since traveled beyond 160 AU (as of 2025), providing over a decade of interstellar data.

2. **Voyager 2**: Crossed the heliopause on November 5, 2018, at approximately 119 AU. It entered interstellar space with operational plasma instruments, offering complementary measurements.

Both spacecraft detect a dynamic LISM with variable plasma waves, magnetic fluctuations, and cosmic ray interactions. No anomalies attributable to dark energy (e.g., unexplained repulsive forces or uniform energy density) have been observed.

2.2 Detailed Data and Measurements

To avoid reader confusion, we present comprehensive data in tabular form, including plasma density, magnetic fields, cosmic ray fluxes, and derived energy density. Data are sourced from Voyager instruments and subsequent analyses (e.g., (1; 2; 3)). Values are averaged where applicable, with ranges indicating variability over time and location.

Table 1: Voyager 1 and 2 Measurements in the Local Interstellar Medium

Parameter	**Voyager 1**	**Voyager 2**	**Units**
Electron Plasma Density (n_e)	0.08–0.147 cm^{-3} (avg. ~0.1)	0.039–0.12 cm^{-3} (avg. ~0.08)	cm^{-3}
Plasma Temperature (T)	~6,000–7,500 K	~7,000 K	K
Magnetic Field Strength (B)	0.47–0.52 nT (avg. ~0.5)	0.48–0.55 nT (avg. ~0.5)	nT
Cosmic Ray Nuclei Flux (>3 MeV nuc^{-1})	0.80–0.97 eV cm^{-3}	Consistent with V1	particles
Cosmic Ray Electron Flux (>2.7 MeV)	0.023–0.05 eV cm^{-3}	Similar; faint emissions	particles
Total Gas Density ($n_H + n_{He}$)	~0.2–0.3 cm^{-3}	~0.2 cm^{-3}	cm^{-3}

Key Result: Combined data from both Voyagers show that charged particle density and pressure exceed 40% of the local interstellar energy budget, with no indication of a dark energy component. This is derived from open calculations below.

2.3 Open Calculations for Energy Density

To ensure transparency, we provide step-by-step calculations of the LISM energy density components using Voyager data. Units are converted to eV cm^{-3} for consistency. Assumptions: Partially ionized plasma ($n_e \approx n_p \approx 0.1$ cm^{-3}), $T \approx 7000$ K, $B \approx 0.5$ nT (5 μG).

1. **Cosmic Ray Energy Density ($u_{\mathbf{CR}}$)**:
   Directly from Voyager spectra: u_{CR} (nuclei >3 MeV nuc^{-1} + electrons >3 MeV) = 0.83–1.02 eV cm^{-3} (avg. 0.9 eV cm^{-3}).
   Breakdown: Nuclei (H, He, etc.) $\approx$ 0.85 eV cm^{-3}; Electrons $\approx$ 0.03 eV cm^{-3}.
   Calculation: Integrated from observed spectra using propagation models (e.g., LBM, DR); no adjustment needed as values are model-fitted (19; 7).

2. **Magnetic Energy Density ($u_{\mathbf{mag}}$)**:
   Formula: $u_{\text{mag}} = \frac{B^2}{8\pi}$ in erg cm^{-3}, convert to eV cm^{-3} (1 erg = 6.24×10^{11} eV).
   $B = 5 \times 10^{-6}$ G, $B^2 = 2.5 \times 10^{-11}$ G^2.
   u_{mag} (erg cm^{-3}) = $\frac{2.5\times10^{-11}}{8\pi} \approx 9.95 \times 10^{-13}$ erg cm^{-3}.
   u_{mag} (eV cm^{-3}) $\approx 9.95 \times 10^{-13} \times 6.24 \times 10^{11} \approx 0.62$ eV cm^{-3}.

3. **Thermal Energy Density ($u_{\mathbf{thermal}}$)**:
   Formula: $u_{\text{thermal}} \approx \frac{3}{2}nkT$ (ideal gas; summed over electrons and ions).
   $n \approx 0.1$ cm^{-3}, $k = 8.617 \times 10^{-5}$ eV K^{-1}, $T = 7000$ K.

$kT \approx 8.617 \times 10^{-5} \times 7000 \approx 0.603$ eV.
$\frac{3}{2}kT \approx 0.905$ eV.
$u_{\text{thermal}} \approx 0.1 \times 0.905 \times 2$ (for e^- + ions) ≈ 0.18 eV cm^{-3} (approx.; lower if partial ionization).

4. **Radiation Energy Density (u_{rad})**:
   CMB: ~0.26 eV cm^{-3} (fixed).
   Starlight: ~0.3–0.5 eV cm^{-3} (diffuse interstellar).
   Total $u_{\text{rad}} \approx 0.6$–$0.8$ eV cm^{-3} (not directly from Voyager; contextual).

5. **Total Energy Density (u_{total})**:
   $u_{\text{total}} \approx u_{\text{CR}} + u_{\text{mag}} + u_{\text{thermal}} + u_{\text{rad}} + u_{\text{kinetic}}$ (turbulent, ~0.1–0.3 eV cm^{-3}) $\approx 0.9 + 0.62 + 0.18 + 0.7 + 0.2 \approx 2.6$ eV cm^{-3}.

6. **Charged Particle Contribution**:
   Charged particles (cosmic rays + thermal plasma) $\approx u_{\text{CR}} + u_{\text{thermal}} \approx 0.9 + 0.18 = 1.08$ eV cm^{-3}.
   Percentage: $\frac{1.08}{2.6} \times 100\% \approx 41.5\%$ (>40% as claimed).
   Note: Conservative; higher CR models push it to 45–50%.

These calculations use standard astrophysical formulas and Voyager-derived parameters. No dark energy term (expected ~10^{-8} eV cm^{-3} if uniform) fits the data, as it would manifest as unexplained residuals.

3 Interpretation under ΛCDM

ΛCDM requires dark energy to be uniformly present even in the local universe. If this were the case, Voyager instruments should detect anomalous energy density or unexplained repulsive effects. The absence of such signals undermines the universality of dark energy as a physical entity.

4 Interpretation under TQTU

The TQTU framework explains cosmic acceleration without invoking dark energy:

- **Φ-fields (Polarity)**: Drive structural asymmetries in plasma flows, maintaining large-scale dynamics.
- **Entropy Duality ($S = R + D$)**: Localized regenerative entropy (charged particle clustering, star formation) balances degenerative entropy (diffusion), calibrated by the golden ratio ($R/D = \phi$).
- **Charged Particle Dominance**: Voyager's >40% charged particle energy density supports TQTU's claim that plasma processes, not exotic entities, govern cosmic behavior.

5 Implications

1. **Dark Energy Not Detected**: Voyager data suggest that dark energy is neither required nor observable at the scales probed.
2. **Charged Particle Physics**: Plasma dynamics must replace hypothetical dark energy as the foundation of cosmic evolution.
3. **TQTU Validation**: The observations reinforce TQTU predictions that torsion + Φ-field dynamics explain both cosmic clustering (dark matter analogue) and acceleration (dark energy analogue).

6 Conclusion

Voyager 1 and 2 have provided humanity's first direct interstellar measurements. These data reveal a universe shaped by charged particles and electromagnetic fields, not by invisible dark energy. The findings resonate with the Tanfarid Quantum Thermodynamic Universe, which dispenses with dark energy and offers a coherent, testable framework for unifying matter, life, and cosmos.

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